

TCDXA
TWIN CITY DX ASSOCIATION



Minnesota

Newsletter of the
Twin City DX Association
www.tcdxa.org

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July, 2010



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Gray Line Staff

**KØIEA
KØJUH
WØBV**

The GRAY LINE REPORT

DXing from Minnesota - Land of 10,000 Lakes

KØIR Wins BIG in 2009 CQWW RTTY DX Contest!



Ralph Fedor, **KØIR**, displays the plaque awarded for 1st Place North America in the Multioperator – two transmitter category of the October 2009 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest in September, 2009. The plaque is sponsored by **K6AW**.

The operators were: **KØIR, KØRC, WAØMHJ, KØXV, KØSV, and NØUV**.

Over the 48-hour contest weekend, the team logged over 2,400 contacts and scored 2.5 million points. They operated a total of 46 hours.

The **KØIR** contest station is located at Waite Park, Minnesota. The station has gone through extensive upgrading in recent years. See the story starting on page 31 in the [December 2009 issue of the GrayLine Report](#) for a detailed look at the antennas and operating positions. This was Ralph's first use of his newly-designed multi-op station in a RTTY contest.

Ralph will be looking for guest operators to help put his superstation on the air in the coming contest season. Send him an email if you're interested in operating in a particular contest: ralphfedor@gmail.com.

Member News

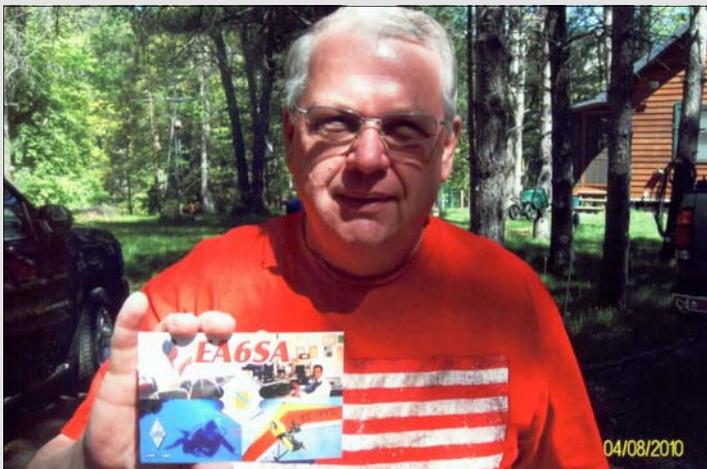
WØLSD Wins Multi-single USA in 2009 CQWW RTTY DX



Ken, **WØLSD** proudly displays his plaque from the 2009 CQWW RTTY DX Contest. Assisting Ken in the multi-single op effort were TCDXA members John, **KØTG** and Bob, **WØBV**. The operation was from Ken's well-equipped Lost Creek rental cabin, located at 9,000 ft. elevation on the eastern slope of Mt. Princeton in central Colorado (see www.lostcreekcabin.com). Ken is a highly-skilled RTTY operator who holds many awards, including DXCC RTTY Honor Roll.

KØMN Receives QSL for 6 meter DXCC!!!

BIG congrats to Dick Kleppe, **KØMN** for his 6 meter DXCC! Dick joins Chuck, **KØSQ** as the only two club members to achieve this award that is such an extreme challenge from this part of the world.

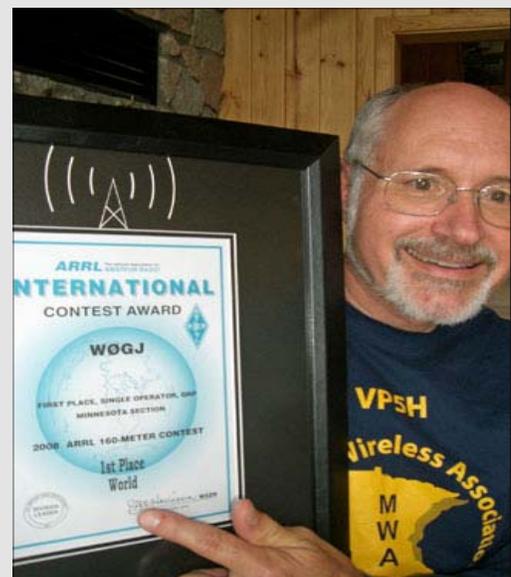


KØKG Earns 5BWAZ!!



Keith Gilbertson, **KØKG** took advantage of those excellent low band conditions we had last season to fill in the zones he was missing for 5-band WAZ.

Keith just received his certificate as we were wrapping up this issue of the **GrayLine**, and sent us this shot. He says that he has placed his order for the 5BWAZ plaque. Congrats on a great job, Keith!



Glenn, **WØGJ** shows us his award for **1st Place World, QRP** in the 2008 ARRL 160 meter Contest. See page 36 of the [December '09 GrayLine](#) for the full story.

DXers at Dayton 2010

Photos by Gary, KØGX and Mike Paskeuric, NØODK



Ryan, N6RYN and his dad Paul Ewing, N6PSE (YI9PSE) stop by the TCDXA fleamarket space.



It's Larry, VQ9LA (NØQM)!!



Big Mike, NØODK visits with Slaven, E77A.



Mike conveyed thanks on behalf of all TCDXA members to Bill Moore, NC1L for all of his hard work.



Mike visits with Ramón , XE1KK.



The TCDXA gang (l-r) Bob, WØEK; Gary, KØGX and Chuck, KØSQ.

More Dayton 2010 Sights

Photos by Mike Paskeuric, NØODK



Inside Hara Arena.



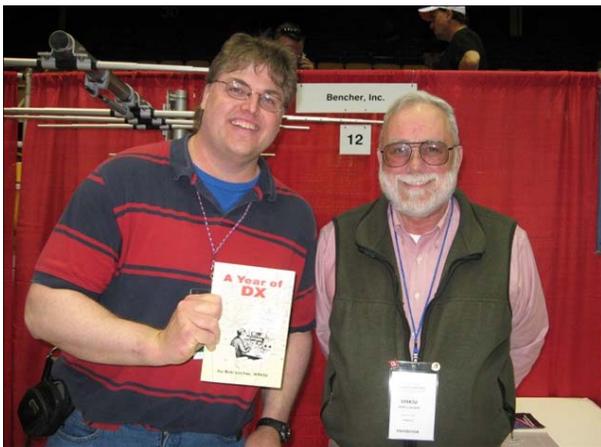
The vendors were busy this year!



Minnesota fleas.



Mike with "Mr. Sound" Bob Heil, K9EID.



Mike visits with Bob Locher, W9KNI, author of *The Complete DXer* and his new book *A Year of DX*.



At the ARRL booth: (l-r) Brent Robertson, KB1PYY; Katie Glass and Greg Widin, KØGW. Brent and Katie created the new ARRL website.

Rome Wasn't Built in a Day - Neither was the TCDXA Website



Just like Rome, things didn't happen with the TCDXA website overnight. For a number of years, we talked about the need for a major overhaul, but that's all we did – talk! There were two reasons we couldn't get the project moving. No one was willing to work on it, and the club couldn't afford to hire a professional web designer.

Finally, **KØJUH** stepped forward and gave it a go. From the beginning, it wasn't a pretty story. Knowing absolutely zero about web design, Jim's early efforts were filled with failure and frustration. In spite of the problems, being German and bull headed paid off. He didn't give up.

Along the way, other members helped out. **WØBV** did most of the beta testing as the site was being developed. **KØIEA**, **KFØQR**, and **KØRC**, offered their support as well. We would be amiss if we didn't thank Pair Networks, our server, for their excellent "technical help" department. They always answered our calls promptly and with a smile!

Eventually, a new TCDXA website made its way to the server. It was not free of problems, but over time, links got fixed, typos were corrected, and we could finally say we had a stable, functioning website.

As the months rolled by, various members started giving us some feedback on what they would like us to add to the site. They wanted a way for members and non-members to pay dues and make donations on line. They wanted a membership application form that could be completed on line, and emailed to the Secretary-Treasurer. We were also asked to consider adding the DXCC Awards Ladder.

This time, things happened much faster. We added the Pay Pal feature, the online application form, and the DXCC Awards ladder to the website, all within a relatively short period of

time. **KØPC** came to our rescue, when he wrote the codes in Java script for the application form, and Rick, **KØXB**, stepped forward and volunteered to manage the Ladder.

Today, the website can be found at www.tcdxa.org. It won't appear on the current list of award winning web designs, but it's functional, and gets the job done. We've stayed away from glitz and glamour, and avoided using tiny fonts in hard to read pastel shades. Our design focus was three fold: the site must be easy on the eyes, easy to navigate, and provide our members with useful information.

Many have told us websites are never done, and are always under construction. Though we would like to think the TCDXA site is a wrap, we welcome your feedback and are open minded to change. Please send your comments and suggestions to k0juh@comcast.net.



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The Variability of the Sun

by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA June, 2010

In the June 11 ARRL Propagation Bulletin (authored by Tad, **K7RA**), Vic, **AH6WX** posed an interesting question:

Does anyone have an explanation for the marked decrease in solar flux since February? At one point we peaked at 94, seemingly indicating the long overdue increase expected for Cycle 24. But, the June 6 reading of 68 is, I believe, the lowest value of 2010 to date.

The non-technical explanation for this decrease is the short-term variability of the Sun. The plot of Figure 1 shows the daily solar flux from January 1996 through December 2001, which includes solar minimum between Cycles 22 and 23 and Cycle 23's rise to its maximum.

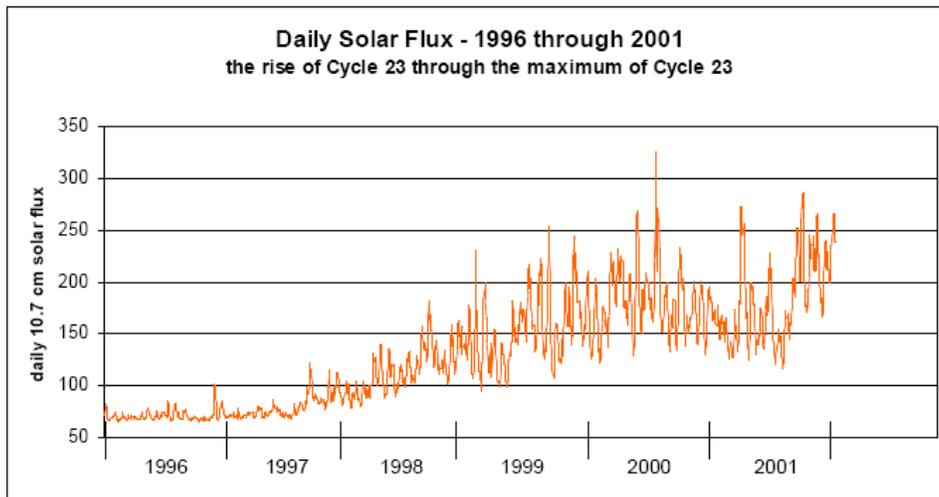


Figure 1

The important observation about this plot is the amount of variability in the daily 10.7 cm solar flux measurement. In fact, it is so variable that it's hard to pick out trends. So let's look at the monthly mean solar flux from January 1996 to the present. Figure 2 does this.

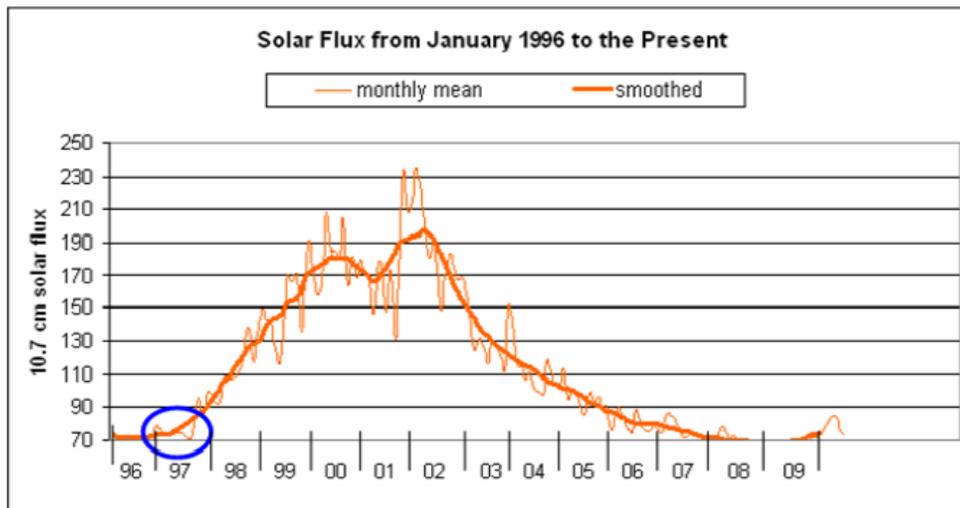
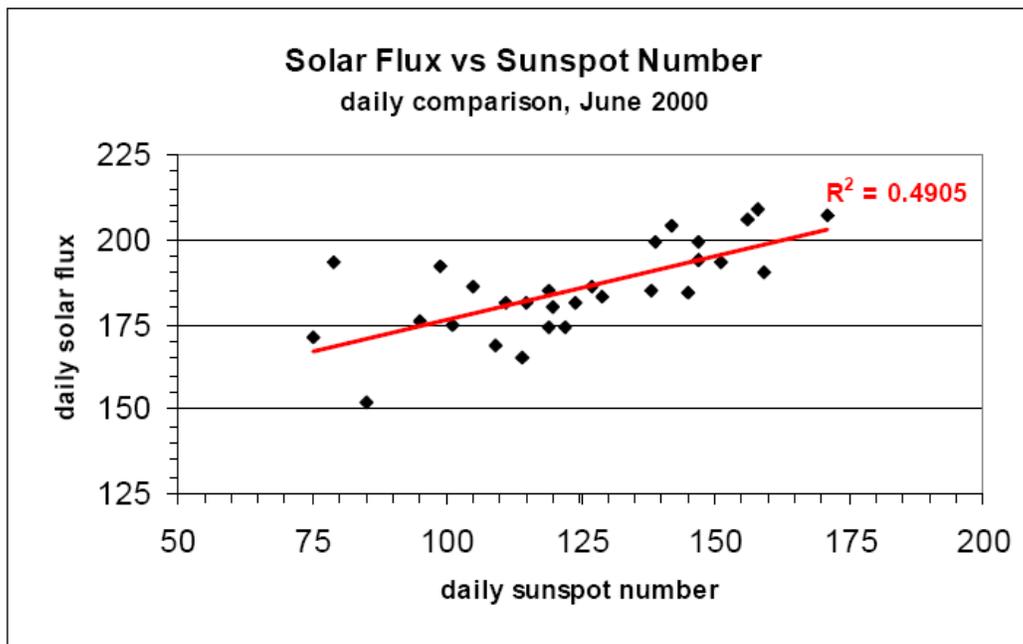


Figure 2

The monthly mean (average) solar flux, with its many ups and downs, is the thin curve. What it clearly shows is that historical data exhibits the same short-term characteristic as Cycle 24 is exhibiting now. The flux is up, then it's down. I've circled one such excursion in blue right at the beginning of the ascent of Cycle 23 (Figure 2), which is similar to what's happening with Cycle 24.

So there's nothing unusual about the solar flux being up in early 2010, and then decreasing. The solar flux will come back up in a bit, and it will continue to exhibit these up-and-down trends as Cycle 24 ascends and ultimately descends. This variability is why we look at solar cycle using smoothed values - to remove these short-term excursions to better see the overall trend.

K7RA also commented that the recent solar flux doesn't seem to track very well with sunspot numbers. He also added that normally when sunspot numbers increase, so does solar flux. A scatter diagram of the daily solar flux versus the daily sunspot number shows the problem when trying to correlate solar flux to sunspot number on a short-term basis.



The problem is the daily values aren't correlated too well as seen by the amount of scatter about the trend line. If we use monthly means, the correlation is better (not shown), but it isn't perfect - it still introduces a good amount of uncertainty. The best correlation between these two parameters is when smoothed values (12-month running averages) are used (again not shown) - for details, visit the article titled "[Correlation Between Solar Flux and Sunspot Number](#)" under the Basic Concepts link elsewhere on my website.

And speaking of smoothed values, the thick smoothed solar flux curve in Figure 2 is really what tells us how Cycle 24 is doing. As long as it keeps increasing (as it appears to be doing in late 2009 and early 2010), then we can be assured that Cycle 24 is indeed ascending.



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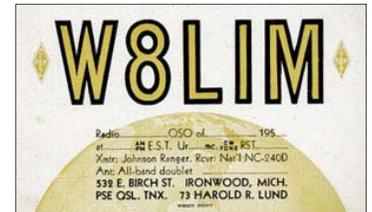


Hal Lund

**ZS6WB
KCØVAX**

I'm a Wisconsin farm boy, born in Waupaca in 1935, with my early years spent on a large apple farm a short distance out of town. My mother and her older brother inherited the farm, jointly. About the time I started school, I discovered a treasure in the attic that fascinated me - a pile of old radios back in the corner. Atwater-Kents and the like were my earliest toys that started a love affair with radio that is still with me in my seventy-fifth year.

My father, an immigrant from Norway, didn't care for farming. In the mid-1940s, we moved to the small town of Sidnaw in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 1948, we moved to Ironwood, where I attended high school. In 1952, I received my Novice license and the callsign **WN8LIM**. With some late night work on 80 meter CW to bring my speed up, I was able to drop the N from the call about six months later. My first rig was a homebrew 6L6-807, with a surplus BC342 receiver.



Even though there was no other local activity on VHF in the early 1950s, the higher frequencies fascinated me. So, I picked up a surplus SCR-522, and had a go at working 2 meter DX. I'll never forget the thrill of my first DX QSO on 2m with **WØBBN** across Lake Superior in Grand Marais, who always had a booming signal in Ironwood.

I took my first big solo trip away from home in 1952, when I attended the ARRL National Convention in Chicago, and listened to Sam Harria, **W1FZJ** tell about the attempts he and others were making to bounce signals off the moon. Fascinating stuff, and something I determined to do in my lifetime. In 1964, I visited Sam and Helen at their home in Massachusetts. The station used for his first EME QSO had been set up in an old school bus, and the area behind the house was filled with parabolic dishes.

While still in school, I found that our local Army National Guard unit had radar controlled anti-aircraft guns, and were badly in needed of volunteers with a background in electronics. I joined, and one week after graduating from high school was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas for training as a radar technician and my first formal schooling in electronics. We moved from one radar to another, and then to Nike guided missiles. In nine years as a member of the National Guard, over four years were spent in various schools at Fort Bliss. The members of the local club, **W5ES**, were a great bunch, and for a few years El Paso was virtually my second home.

After completion of radar training, I returned to Ironwood and starting looking for work. TV had just reached our area with the nearest station in the Twin Cities. One of our officers

worked for an appliance sales company and offered me a job as a TV repairman. I accepted, and went off on my first service call, never having seen the inside of a TV set, and with only a vague idea of how TV worked.

I was still living with my parents, and there was little room in the house for a ham shack. We lived on the edge of town, and just across the street was a large area of swamp. On the near edge was a piece of land with a fairly large, but unused chicken coop. I was able to obtain the land, and after shoveling out the chicken droppings and after a lot of repairs, the chicken coop became the new home of **W8LIM**.



W8LIM in VHF Contest, September, 1960.

At about this time, a high school student named Terry Serman, **W9DIA** opened a ham radio department in his father's electronics business in Fond du Lac and was doing quite well. He offered me the opportunity to work for him in the UP and Northern Wisconsin on a part-time basis. From that time on, there was usually an assortment of used commercial ham equipment in stock that I could use for demonstration purposes. I later worked for Terry

in Milwaukee at the first Amateur Electronic Supply store when there were only half a dozen employees in total, and stayed with them until I was offered a full time job by the Wisconsin National Guard on a Nike-Ajax Guided Missile site in Milwaukee. They said the site was to protect Chicago, but I always suspected it was located there for the many wonderful breweries in Milwaukee.

Up to this point, I was an active ham on both HF and VHF. I had also joined MARS, and was quite active in MARS RTTY nets. On a bitterly cold day in early 1962, I was in charge of a crew fueling a Nike-Ajax when circumstances arose that could have ended in my being seriously injured. Fortunately, things were sorted out without any damage.

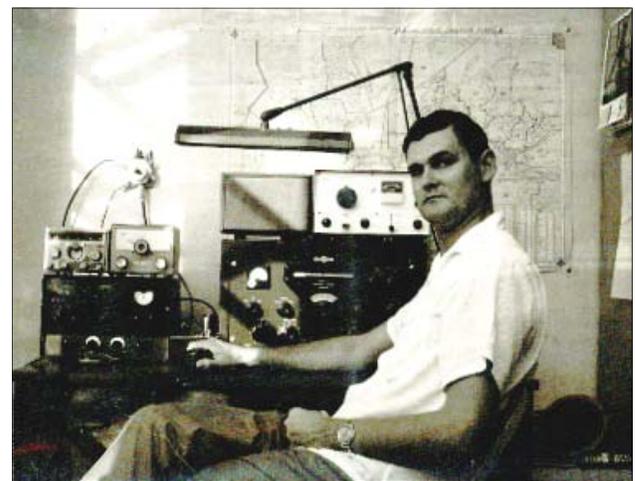
When I reached home that evening, I was looking through the newspaper when I ran across an ad looking for radar technicians with experience on various radar systems, including the first radar that I had received training on. The following week, I met with the RCA recruiter, who was in town. Three weeks later, I reported to Patrick Air Force Base near Cape Canaveral for transportation to my first assignment with the Missile Test Project.

This turned out to be the beautiful little island of San Salvador in the Bahamas, where I was to spend the next three years of my life as **VP7CX**. My room faced the ocean, and on the rare occasion the water was so rough, I had to close the windows to avoid getting salt spray on my rig.

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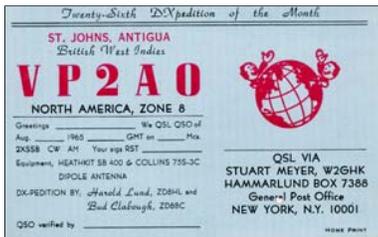
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VP7CX, 1963

It was probably at this point that I became a more dedicated DXer. When I first went to San Salvador, I took a Collins 75A-2 receiver and a Gonset G-77 transmitter, along with a Johnson 6N2. The Gonset G-77 modulator-power supply unit also mated well with the 6N2, and I had a lot of fun working sporadic-E on six meters. My first DXCC (as VP7CX) was issued in August of 1964, and by that time I had upgraded to a Collins S-Line.

During the stay in the Bahamas, I went on two DXpeditions. The first was to Santo Domingo, where I operated six meters as **HI8XHL** - probably the first ever 50MHz operation from the Dominican Republic. The second was an HF operation from Antigua as **VP2AO**, which was fairly scarce back in the 1960s. During this period, I also attended the 1964 ARRL National Convention in New York, where I had a chance to hear Barry Goldwater, **K7UGA** predict at the dinner speech that there was soon going to be a beam installed on the White House.



At the beginning of 1965, I was transferred to Ascension Island and became **ZD8HL**. DXing then began in earnest, and in less than a year, another DXCC was issued under that call. **W2CTN** had offered to act as QSL manager, and by the end of the year he probably regretted it.



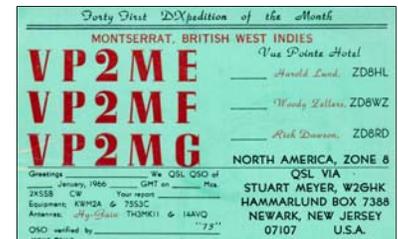
During the early part of the stay on Ascension, I had a number of contacts with Don Miller, **W9WNV**, who was still out in the Far East. I found out he was also a native of Wisconsin.

With a bit of vacation time available, I looked around for another DXpedition spot, and decided on Anguilla, operating from there for a few days as **VP2KL** at the end of April 1965. **W2GHK** and the Hammarlund DXpedition of the Month handled the QSLs for this one.



In early 1966, I, along with two other Ascension hams, traveled to a DX gathering in Caracas, Venezuela. Along the way, we spent a few days on Montserrat, where we operated as **VP2ME (ZD8HL)**, **VP2MF (ZD8WZ)** and **VP2MG (ZD8RD)**.

Also in attendance at Caracas were two well-known DXers of the day: Gus Browning, **W4BPD** and Don Miller, **W9WNV**. We had



a great time, and the Venezuelan hams went all-out to show us the local sights. It was while we were there, that Don received word that his DXpedition partner, **K7LMU** had been lost at sea, and he immediately left to join the search for Chuck in the Pacific.

Shortly after our return to Ascension, I was offered a choice assignment - a transfer to the tracking station at Pretoria, South Africa. Two weeks later, I left for the new assignment. Upon arrival, I found there was no reciprocal license arrangement between the U.S. and South Africa, and I would not be able to get on the air. But, the other attractions of the country, as well as the job, were more than enough to keep me occupied. Nevertheless, I pursued getting a license, and eventually was allowed to take the written amateur examination. But, by the time I was notified that I had passed, I had also been advised that a transfer to Antigua was imminent, so I didn't take the code test or apply for a ZS callsign.

In the early months of the Pretoria assignment, I received a telegram from **W9WNV** inviting me to join him on a DXpedition in the Indian Ocean to put on several new DXCC entities in the area. As we were preparing our radar to track several major rocket launches leading up to the moon landing, I wasn't able to join Don. But, he stopped off in Pretoria, and we spent some time organizing logistics for his trip.

Before my first DXpedition to Antigua, I was granted a VP2A license on the basis of my Bahamas callsign. But, when I returned to Antigua to take up my new assignment, they refused to renew the old license. I was informed there was no reciprocal licensing agreement with the U.S. So, ham radio was again ruled out. During a series of new assignments, I remained off the air until the early 1980s.

In 1970, I took a job at the NASA tracking station in Madagascar, and stayed there until 1975. While in Madagascar, I bought a small airplane. When my contract ended there in early 1975, I flew to South Africa, planning to take a few months off and see some areas of Southern Africa that I had missed while I was working there. I then planned to sell the airplane in South Africa and return to the U.S. to look for another job. The plan was going well, until I was asked if I would fly up to Zimbabwe (still Rhodesia at that time), and help tow gliders for their gliding championships. At the championships, I met the operator of a flying operation in Johannesburg, and when he learned that I was both a commercial pilot and an electronic technician, he offered me a job which sounded very interesting as a survey pilot/airborne equipment operator.

For the next several years, I saw the more remote areas of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia close-up, with most of the flying at 200 feet, going up and down mountains, using a radar altimeter to maintain the correct height. I still had the certificate showing I had passed the written amateur examination license several years earlier, and although it was normally required that the code test be taken within six months of writing the exam, they honored the written. After taking the code test, I

However, at the time I received the license, I was living in country hotels out of a suitcase for weeks at a time and working twelve hours a day. So, there was no chance to get back on the air until the early 1980s. By that time, Southern Africa had been thoroughly examined for every mineral imaginable, and I found myself attending too many funerals of friends who hit downdrafts while going up and down mountains at 200 feet. Computers were the coming thing, and soon I found myself in the computer business. I was at home in Pretoria, at last, with a regular job. Finally, there was time to get back on the ham bands.

About the time I returned to the air, ARRL had just introduced the VUCC program, and I spent a lot of time on VHF chasing grids. However, HF was not totally neglected, and a mixed DXCC was issued to ZS6WB in 1986. 5BDXCC was added to the collection in 1996. And, in 1998, I received the one I am most proud of - a six meter DXCC. It was the first one issued in Africa. At present, I have worked DXCC on nine bands. Number ten will be extremely difficult, because of high line noise and high surrounding terrain at my present location. But, I have about 55 DXCC entities on two meters (mostly EME), and 65 each on 160 meters and satellite. I recently chased down some old outstanding HF QSLs, two of them 25 years old, and got together just enough to put me on the lowest rung of the DXCC Honor Roll.



Antenna for EME at 3DAØHL.



Operating EME from 3DAØHL.

I enjoy working DX, but I'm not a fanatic. A few months back, I heard that one of the local hams was planning to take a few weeks to do a sightseeing drive around Southern Africa, with his route taking him through several countries. We put together a portable satellite station for him, just a dual band handheld with an Arrow Yagi antenna. We have all been having a lot of fun contacting him on his travels through the various grids and countries. So far, three new countries and a bunch of grids. We have loaned **ZS8M** a similar station, and are waiting for the weather down there to be good enough for Pierre to go outdoors to use it.

My equipment is modest at the moment. On HF, I use an Icom 718, and my only antenna at the moment is a Butternut vertical. On satellites I use an Icom 910H, and my trusty old Yaesu FT-650 is waiting for the solar cycle to rise and six to open again.

DXing is fun, but every location has advantages and disadvantages. While I can work Marion Island every day if I want to, I still need CYØ Sable Island, which is probably fairly easy if you live in Minnesota.

I'm planning to get back to visit my sister in Minneapolis in 2011, and I'll schedule the trip so I am able to take in a club meeting, as well as some Twins games. I'll be looking forward to saying hello.

73,

Hal Lund, ZS6WB / KCØVAX

ex-VP7CX-ZD8HL-HI8XHL-VP2AO-VP2ME-
VP2KL-3DAØHL-A22HL-V51/ZS6WB

**How you can help...and
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- Patrick Tice, **WAØTDA**, Handiham Manager



The MWA Contest Corner

My Life as Editor of the *National Contest Journal*

by Al Dewey, KØAD

reprinted with permission from the TCFMC *GroundWave*

My interest in contesting goes back to the early 1960s, when I was first licensed as **KN9DHN** in Munster, Indiana. That first Field Day on the shores of Lake Michigan, as well as my first ARRL Sweepstakes operating with **K9WWT**, made an impression that had me hooked for life. Like many teen-age hams at the time, I went on to college, got married and raised a family. During those times, I was not quite as active as I would like to have been, but still managed to get in a contest from time to time. In 1974, I moved to Minnesota and started to become more active, again. I hooked up with the Twin City FM Club, and volunteered to head up their Field Day efforts – a post I held for about 12 years.

I also became aware of a group called the Minnesota Wireless Association, who were really into contesting. I started attending their meetings, and really started to get motivated about contesting, again. I learned about a publication that many of them read called the *National Contest Journal*. I learned that it had actually been started by Tod Olson, **KØTO** out of his home in 1973, and had grown to the point that the ARRL had taken over publication in 1987. I quickly subscribed, and found that it was the only ham radio publication that I read cover to cover, whenever it arrived.

Flash forward to 2005, and I found myself attending the WØDXCC convention in Bloomington, MN. I ran into an old friend of mine – Carl, **K9LA**. Carl was the current editor of the *NCJ*, and surprised me by asking if I might be interested in taking it over when he decided to step down. My first fear was that I was not a big enough name in contesting. He said, as long as you get the job done and keep the issues



interesting, people won't care. He was right. I thought about it a lot, and two years later I found myself *NCJ*'s new editor.

Something I learned quickly, is that you need to work on it a little almost every day! If you wait until the deadline, you will be in a heap of trouble. And, of course, publishing deadlines are firm, and don't allow for the fact that you might be on vacation or a business trip. Since becoming editor, my laptop goes with me on our vacations, and I need to sneak in a little time to keep up. On business trips, you will often find me in the hotel room late at night working on the upcoming issue of *NCJ*.

Another big fear I had when I took over the reins of *NCJ* was that I would not be able to come up with enough interesting content issue after issue. With a long list of paid subscribers and advertisers, I realized that moving the deadline out if you did not have enough content was simply not an option! You had to have content on time for each issue.

Finding Content

To find content, I just keep my ear to the ground. I monitor a number of contesting reflectors. I stay active in contests. When a topic comes up that seems to interest a lot of people, I look for someone who seems to be the most

vocal (or knowledgeable) about it. I then contact them to see if they would be interested in writing an article for **NCJ**. To my surprise, more seem to say yes than no. Occasionally (but not too often), I will get some unsolicited articles – some of which I accept. Sometimes, I am forwarded articles from the League that were submitted for QST but, for a number of reasons, felt more appropriate for **NCJ**. Since becoming **NCJ** editor, I have started going to Dayton, making a number of contacts at the various contesting forums which have resulted in articles for **NCJ**.

When I took over as **NCJ** editor, I decided to keep all the existing columns. However, I wanted to add more content for the beginning contesters. After searching for a while, I connected with Kirk Pickering, **K4RO**, who is a very experienced contesters, and has a gift for very clear writing. He introduced his “*Contesting 101*” column, which explains contesting tips and techniques in easy to understand language and lingo for the beginning contesters.

Getting NCJ to the Press

The first step to getting an issue of **NCJ** out is to get commitments for articles for the issue. Once I have identified the content I want for an issue, I prepare an outline laying out the issue and estimating the length of each article and column. A deadline is set for all material. When the material comes in, I do some preliminary editing on the article, and gather all the figures and pictures.

I often times have to go back and forth with the author to get everything right. I then send the drafts of the articles and columns to **WW3DE**, who is the managing editor for **NCJ** at ARRL. Rick does some additional editing – often drastically improving the readability of the submitted articles. The articles and columns are then submitted to the League’s layout and publication people, who format the articles and figure the way they will appear in **NCJ**.

The drafts are then sent back to the original authors for a final review by them. Once all the drafts have been approved, the League puts everything together into a final issue. I decide what is going to be on the cover, and submit it to the League’s artist, who lays out the cover and

sends me a draft. Somewhere in there, I find time to write an editorial for the issue.

A final draft of the entire issue with cover, table of contents, articles, columns, and ads are sent to me and to **WW3DE** for a final review. I read the entire issue one more time, and give the green light for it to go to press. The issue is then sent off to League’s printer, and hopefully arrives in subscriber’s mailboxes on time.

Six times per year, the deadlines for **QST**, **NCJ**, and **QEX** all fall on approximately the same dates. The people at the League really have to scramble to get everything done on time. I’m amazed at how they get it all done.

Final Thoughts

As mentioned above, **NCJ** was started in 1973 by Tod Olson, **KØTO**. There were no word processors at the time. He had to do it all on an electric typewriter, and literally cut and pasted the issue together. He handled the printing, mailing, and subscription management. It was an amazing amount of work. Other editors after Tod include: **WØRTT**, **K5ZD**, **K5RC**, **W2GD**, **K7GM**, **K8CC**, **N5KO**, **AA5B**, **NN1N**, **K7BV**, and **K9LA**. The average editor’s term is about three years. I have been doing this for a little over 2 years, now, and am still having fun. Before long, though, I will be turning the reins over to someone else. **NCJ** has traditionally done that to keep the content fresh and, of course, to avoid burnout.

73 de AI, **KØAD**

Join TCDXA

Our mission is to raise *Dollars for DX* used to help fund qualified DXpeditions. Our funds come from annual member contributions (dues) and other donations. TCDXA is a non-profit organization as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions from U.S. residents are tax-deductible.

Becoming a member is easy. Go to <http://tcdxa.org/> and follow the instructions on the home page. All contributions (including annual dues) may now be paid on our secure site, using PayPal or credit card.

TCFMC Field Day 2010

by Bert, WBØN

The City of St. Louis Park once again hosted our Field Day operation at their Oak Hill Park facility located on Louisiana Avenue South, just north of Highway 7. We made many improvements to our antennas, thanks largely to the design efforts of Roger, KØMPH. More attention was given this year to 6 meters and to RTTY.

TCDXA members who were active in this year's Field Day were: KØAD, KØBUD, KØHB, KØJUH, KCØRET, KEØL, KGØDK, NØZK, WØBV, WØOR and myself, WBØN. My thanks to all who participated, making this the BEST year we've had, since I joined the crew!



Saturday morning setup. Paul, KØBØN is the fearless climber.



Up she goes!! (One of two towers with a tri-band beam).



Mike, KØBUD says, "What do you mean you didn't copy my section???"

BOX SCORE			
WØEF FD 2010			
Club: Twin City FM Club (TCFMC)			
Class: 3A Section: MN			
Band	CW QSOs	SSB QSOs	RTTY QSOs
80m	102	20	
40m	513	233	7
20m	401	279	37
15m	144	138	
10m	25	229	
6m		84	
Total Qs	1185	983	44
Total Pts	2370	983	88
Bonus Points:			
Emergency power			300
Media publicity			100
Setup in public place			100
Information booth			100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC			100
W1AW Field Day message			100
Formal NTS QTCs handled (10)			100
Natural power QSOs completed			100
Visited by elected official			100
Visited by served agency official			100
Submitted via web			50
Total bonus points			1,250
Claimed Score: 6,882			

TCFMC Field Day 2010



Al, **K0AD** copies the ARRL Bulletin for extra points.



(l-r) Paul, **WG0G**; Jim, **KE0L**;
Steve, **KN0F** and Paul, **KB0N**



Jim, **K0JUH** gives 20m RTTY a go.



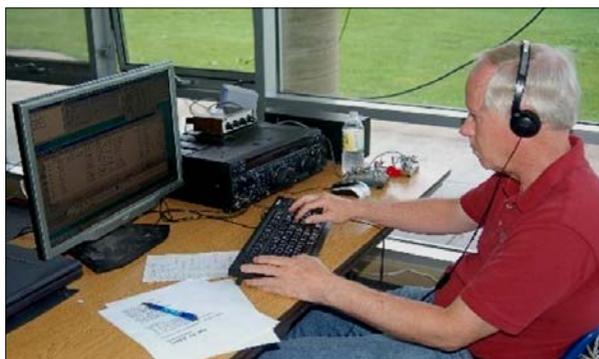
Greg, **KC0RET** and Bert, **WB0N** discuss strategy,
while Mike, **WG0M** makes CW Qs.



Steve, **KN0F** logs for Mike, **K0BUD** at the SSB station.



(l-r): Div. Dir. Greg, **K0GW**; SSB team leader Jathan,
KC8IAZ; Tom, **N0ZK** and Sec Mgr. Skip, **KS0J**.



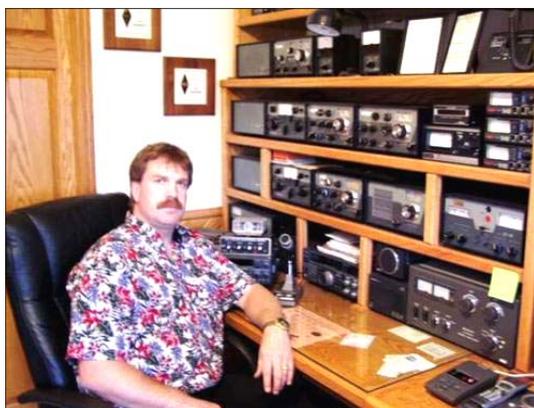
Bob, **W0BV** works sporadic E skip (Es) on 15m CW.



Bill, **W0OR** has a nice run going on 20m CW.

A BIG Welcome to Our Newest Member!

Brian Bird,
NXØX
Duluth, MN



DXers Have a Choice!



The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via email to your home or office Monday through Friday and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX, you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. *Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 mos.*

The Weekly DX - is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via email in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics.

Get two weeks of The Daily DX or a sample of The Weekly DX free by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com, or click [HERE](#).

TCDXA Treasury Report

July 2, 2010

Submitted by TCDXA Secretary-Treasurer Jim Junkert, KØJUH

Income:

Carryover from 2009	\$ 1,843.68
2010 dues collected	2,842.90
Donations & misc.	539.15
Door prize ticket sales	358.00
WØLUP Estate	100.00
Total YTD income	\$5,683.73

Expenses:

Bank service fees	\$ (25.00)
Office supplies, guest dinners, and misc.	(48.00)
MWA plaque	(75.00)
YI9PSE funding	(500.00)
CYØ funding	(200.00)
E4X funding	(300.00)
ZL8X funding	(499.89)
VP8O funding	(1,000.00)
DXØDX funding (proposed)	(500.00)
Member get well cards and gifts	(101.17)
Total YTD expenses	\$(3,249.06)

Current Checking Balance (3/31/2010):	2,434.67
Cash on hand	27.00
Total current funds	2,461.67

VKØIR
ZL9CI
A52A
T33C
3B9C
TX9
CP6CW
3YØX
K7C
5A7A
VU4AN

K5D
VK9DWX
FT5GA
3D2ØCR
E4X
CYØ/NØTG
VP8O



K4M
TX3A
9M6LSC
YS4U
YI9PSE
ZL8X
DXØDX

XU7MWA
S21EA
J2ØRR
J2ØMM
BS7H
N8S
3B7SP
3B7C
5JØA
VP6DX
TX5C
9XØR

TCDXA DX DONATION POLICY

The mission of TCDXA is to support approved DXpeditions by providing funding. Annual contributions from TCDXA members are the major source of funding for this mission.

A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition is directed to the TCDXA Treasurer, who makes an initial evaluation of the request, and discusses the attributes with the TCDXA Board of Directors. The request will be judged by how well DXpedition plans meet several key considerations (see below).

If the Board of Directors deems the DXpedition to be worthy of support, a recommended funding amount is presented to the membership for approval. The TCDXA Treasurer will communicate the outcome of this process to the requestor.

Key Considerations for a DXpedition Funding Request

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of contributing clubs
Ranking on <i>Most Wanted Survey</i>	QSLs with logos of contributing clubs
Most wanted ranking by TCDXA Members	Online logs/pilot stations
Logistics and transportation costs	Up front cost to each operator
Number of operators and their credentials	Support by NCDXF & other clubs
Number of stations on the air	LoTW log submissions
Bands, modes and duration of operation	Success of previous operations by same group
Equipment: antennas, radios, amps, etc.	Valid license and DXCC approval
Stateside and/or foreign QSL manager	Funding mode: USA and/or foreign financial address

Guidelines for Level of Funding

\$\$\$\$ First level	A major DXpedition in terms of operators, equipment, duration of stay, and transportation costs. Requires elaborate planning and a huge budget. Always ranks high on Most Wanted Survey. Examples: VKØIR, 3YØX, K5D.
\$\$\$ Second level	Major to modest DXpedition in terms of operators and equipment. Ranking on Most Wanted Survey can vary from high to low. Examples: D68C, 3B9C
\$\$ Third level	Modest operation in terms of operators and equipment. Usually ranks low on Most Wanted Survey. Examples: T33C, K7C
\$ Fourth level	Special requests, and DXpeditions to entities <i>NOT</i> on the Top 100 Most Wanted Survey. Examples: CP6CW, YS4U



To join TCDXA, go to <http://tcdxa.org/> .

- end -